

But with all this knowledge and fancy technology, in 2015 animals are still becoming extinct.

The situation for elephants and rhinos is bad.

The elephant population in Tanzania has dropped by 60 percent in just the last 5 years.

A total of only five northern white rhinos are left in the world today.

A big reason why is money. The black-market price of ivory in Africa is over \$1,000 per pound.

Rhino horn is now worth about \$27,000 per pound. That's twice the value of gold and platinum and more than cocaine or diamonds.

When a person lives on less than \$2 a day like many of the poachers do, that's a lot of money.

Poachers are willing to risk getting caught or even shot because the payday is just too big.

One rhino horn is enough for them to support their whole family for a year.

That might be why some locals in the community refer to "rhinos" simply as "billions".

In all, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated as a \$10–20 billion per year business.

It is not just low level poachers getting most of the profits.

Transnational criminal organizations and terrorist groups are getting billions of dollars a year from this business. Al-Shabab [al-Shah-Bob] and Joseph Kony's the LRA are two examples.

The same groups that traffick elephant ivory and rhino horn also traffick drugs and weapons. So this isn't just a wildlife problem. It is a national security problem.

Currently, I have been working with my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs committee to make sure the U.S. government is doing everything we can to stop wildlife trafficking.

Part of the solution is understanding the problem.

Ranking Member on my Terrorism Subcommittee, Mr. KEATING and I have amended the Intelligence Authorization bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to produce a report on wildlife trafficking, how terrorist organizations are involved, and its impact on U.S. national security.

In addition to this a GAO study is being conducted to evaluate the job being done so far at trying to stop wildlife trafficking. Both of these should help us understand the problem better.

I'm happy to be an original cosponsor of Chairman ROYCE's bill to encourage countries to work together on this problem and elevate wildlife trafficking as a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes.

It is a strong bipartisan bill that I hope is passed into law soon.

Working together will stop wildlife trafficking in its tracks.

In the 1950s there were only a few hundred white rhino left in the world. Thanks to the work of people like Ian Player, today there are over 15,000.

The threat has been beaten back before and it can be done again.

And that's just the way it is.

THE IRAN DEAL: A DANGEROUS GAMBLE FOR THE U.S. AND OUR ALLIES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the administration's nuclear deal with Iran.

Earlier this year, over 350 Members of Congress—myself included—wrote the president with objectives that a deal must reach before we'd consider sanctions relief. We said there must be anytime, anywhere site inspections. Above all, it must stop Iran's march toward a nuclear weapon.

The deal before us does not meet these objectives. Yet, it gives Iran upwards of 100 billion dollars in sanctions relief almost immediately. Money it can use to finance the spread of terrorism and violence.

This agreement is a dangerous gamble. The security of America and our allies is on the line, and the deck is stacked in favor of a sworn adversary to the United States.

I will be voting to reject this bad deal. I encourage all my colleagues to do the same.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF BRIAN SILAS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brilliant career of Brian Silas, a renowned pianist from India. Mr. Silas is beloved by many, not only for his music but for his dedication to humanitarianism.

Mr. Silas' passion for the piano began early in his life. He was raised in Kanpur, where he was immersed in music and tradition, leading him to his affection for the piano. His instinct and desire to perform drives his musical proficiency. Mr. Silas' talent has led him to some of the world's largest stages and venues, without any formal training.

Mr. Silas' desire to share his gift of music has allowed him to perform his life's work at various venues across the globe. During his career he has packed auditoriums, theatres and runways from the United States to Mauritius. No matter the venue, Mr. Silas' performances are met with the highest of praise. One of his highest honors was in 1998, when Mr. Silas was invited to perform at the United Nations to celebrate India's 51st year of independence.

Mr. Silas' gift to the world does not stop behind the piano. He donates his time to multiple charitable organizations, who aid the underprivileged, sick and neglected. Mr. Silas is deeply involved with the "Artists of Empowerment" who provide gender bias rehabilitation for victimized women. He has striven to help those affected by HIV by endorsing organizations such as "CORE" who strive to educate police personnel on the virus. Mr. Silas also frequently fundraises for organizations such as "Prayaas" who provide homes for the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to honor Mr. Brian Silas. I ask my colleagues to

join me in extending the highest regards and wishes for continued success. Mr. Silas' passion for music and humanitarianism will surely continue to touch lives for years to come.

2015 NATIONAL SEAPERCH CHALLENGE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the accomplishment of the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League's SeaPerch Challenge Middle School Team. The Submersibles placed first in both the obstacle challenge and the finesse course of the 2015 National SeaPerch Middle School Championship.

This is a remarkable accomplishment stemming from months of hard work and determination and one in which these bright young men can feel proud. Their accomplishments this year, as well as their first place finish in the 2014 championship, are certainly deserving of this special recognition.

On April 24, 2015 the team won the Philadelphia SeaPerch Regional competition at Drexel University giving them the opportunity to compete at The University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth on May 29th and 30th. At the national championship, the team defeated 71 other teams nationwide to secure their second national SeaPerch title in 2 years.

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The program provides students the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, math, teamwork, leadership, and public speaking while competing against their peers at a national level.

The National Championship team includes: Jhadyn Seward (Egg Harbor Township), Aidan Himley (Egg Harbor Township), James Massey (Egg Harbor Township), Brandon Kusnirik (Hamilton Township), Anakin Leatherwood (Egg Harbor Township), Luke Williams (Northfield), and coaches Mike and Denise Massey.

Again, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the Submersibles and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHANDRA McCANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Chandra McCann, from Greenfield, Iowa for her retirement from the Adair County Courthouse after 35 years of service.

Through her countless years of dedication to the citizens of Adair County she was able to provide valuable services to those who passed through the Adair County Courthouse. She always came to work with a smile on her face and a willingness to serve.